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Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79-01153A000300010129-6

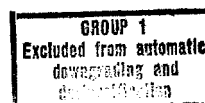
3 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Executive Staff, O/DDI

SUBJECT: OBGI Comments on Army Study, "Operational Tests and Training in the Saint Elias and Wrangell Mountains in Alaska", dated 14 March 1968

1. The Office of Basic and Geographic Intelligence has examined the subject microfilm report and is of the opinion that it is an attempt to show an analogy of the St. Elias and Wrangell Mountains in Alaska to terrain and climatic characteristics of the Himalayan area. The comparison was apparently induced by a suggestion of personnel of the Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) to the Army that the Alaskan mountains would provide a proper training ground for U. S. mountain combat troops who might be called upon to operate in such an environment. The author was given a brief reconnaissance of the area in the summer of 1967 and apparently agreed with the thesis put forward by the AINA. The report is an assembly of data broadened to support not only the analogy to the Himalayan area, but to the whole Eurasian mountainous area. The author appears to feel that there is little likelihood that the suggestion to use the Alaskan area as a training ground for mountain troops would be received favorably within his normal channels -- the Earth Science Division, U. S. Army Natick Laboratories, Army Materiel Command. He doesn't say so, but obviously thinks the Agency may have need for such a training ground. He implies this by suggesting that the DCI may prefer that the report not be given wide circulation. He suggests that a note, recommending either open publication or filing the report without publication, would be appreciated -- although he specifically requests the use of his home address.

2. There is no way of assessing the man's motivation. It may be purely patriotic; it may be a combination of a fear that the report will be unpublished and a hope for an expression of interest which would substitute for publication. Note that he prefers anonymity unless there is some "productive action". In this connection, his statement of employment history also sounds like a disguised job application.



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3. The Office of Basic and Geographic Intelligence does not have a need for the report at the present time. However, it is possible that the DDP might be interested in the report for use in training agents to operate in [REDACTED]. Also, the DDC&T could have a potential interest in the physical conditions of the area for sightings and instrumentation.

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4. In the event that no interest is shown by the other Directorates, the Agency Public Relations representative might drop a note of thanks to the individual, stating that a copy of the report is being reviewed for any related interest and will be kept on file in the Agency.

(signed)

JAMES A. BRAMMELL

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Director

Basic and Geographic Intelligence

Attachments: 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Copy of the Subject report | } with original only |
| 2. Set of microfilm negatives | |

Distribution:

- O&I -- Addressee (w/original of incoming and above-listed attachments)
- 2 -- D/BGI (w/copy of incoming)

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